

Rondo

Fall 2007

FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE WCU SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Welcome to this year's *Rondo* magazine.

You'll notice some new things in this year's edition, especially that we are now a "School of Music" in a "College of Fine and Performing Arts." As you will read elsewhere in this magazine, the new structure brings to life a vision first proposed by Robert Kehrberg many years ago. John West has been appointed as Assistant Dean of the new College. I'll be Director of the new School of Music and Brad Ulrich will be Assistant Director with particular responsibilities in public relations and development. The faculty and I are excited about these changes, which we hope will help us to attract and retain excellent students, faculty, and donors!

There are other changes as well. In view of the increased interest in our programs, we have revised our audition process: we'll be determining targets for the number of students each teaching studio can accommodate, both in terms of faculty loads and opportunities for students to perform in ensembles. This will take place early in January so that we'll be able to tell prospective students how many students we expect to be able to take this year. Within a week or two of the audition, we'll let them know their status: accepted, not accepted, or put on a wait list. Each student we accept will be asked to return a letter of intent to study at WCU in order to secure their place in the studio. If a prospective student declines the offer, that place in the studio will be available for a waitlisted student. We recognize that this process will take some fine tuning, but we hope that it will enable us to accept the best students who want to come here. If you have questions or concerns about these changes, please feel free to contact me. I hope each of you who have students who plan to audition will help your students to understand the process and to prepare the very best auditions possible.

Finally, for those of you who have not been to campus for a while, campus construction continues to change the look of the place. We've made some changes inside Coulter as well:

- An acoustical shell now makes the Recital Hall sound much better
- A new office has been created in the old locker alcove on the second floor

I wish you all well, and I hope to hear from you by phone, email, or any time you're in the area. Thank you for your lives in music, for the students you send us, and for your continued support.

Will Peebles, Director
School of Music

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BRASS QUINTET PERFORMS AT CARNEGIE HALL



The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet performed at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on June 8, 2007. This performance featured works written by current and past composers from the WCU School of Music, including those by Robert Kehrberg, Bruce Frazier, Pavel Wlosok, Paul Basler, and Mark Conner. The performance by the SMBQ was part of an "Arts Weekend in NYC" which featured tours to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim Museum, dinner with Broadway star and current WCU Endowed Chair of Music Theatre, Terrance Mann, and a Broadway show. Plans are underway for a similar "Arts Weekend" in June 2008. This time the SMBQ will be performing at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

MUSIC PROFESSORS TO PRESENT AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

Carol Grotnes Belk professor, **Bruce Frazier** and new music faculty member **Daniel Gonko** will be traveling to Salt Lake City in November to present sessions at the joint conference of the annual meeting of the College Music Society (CMS) and the Association for Technology in Music Instruction (ATMI). The peer-reviewed presentations will focus on topics in music technology and multimedia.

On Thursday, November 15, Daniel Gonko, and WCU graduate Robert Johnson are teaming up to lead a session on advanced DVD creation. In their session, "*Building Your DVD Resume*," they will demonstrate Apple's *DVD Studio Pro* software designed to create media-oriented interactive multimedia presentations that will enhance the learning experience. This presentation will include importing and



assigning media, creating menus and buttons, creating and linking media tracks, developing interactive subtitle tracks, customizing menu options, and the burning/duplicating process. They will be giving a step-by-step tutorial showing how to make a DVD from scratch in a streamlined fashion.

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BAND NEWS

ON THE MOVE!

Western Carolina University is proud to present the "Pride of the Mountains" Marching Band, under the direction of music faculty Bob Buckner, Matt Henley, and Jon Henson. The colorguard/auxiliary staff is led by Donna Buckner, and their choreographer is Larry Rebillot of the BlueCoats Drum and Bugle Corps of Canton, Ohio.

Currently the largest band in the Carolinas and Tennessee, this group now has 315 members. This band has distinguished itself throughout the Southeast and indeed the United States with its innovative and energetic performances. Often described as the "world's largest funk band," this ensemble specializes in bringing to the field music that most bands find inaccessible.

Pre-game for the band includes our traditional "Spirit Sequence" and two special musical compositions. The show opens with a fanfare composed by SSgt. Paul Murtha, staff arranger for the U.S.

Army Band, and is based on "Carolina in My Mind." The second piece, a second Fight Song entitled "Catamount Thunder," was composed by Bruce Frazier of the music department faculty, and was commissioned in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the WCU fight song "Western" in 2006.

This year's half-time show is entitled "On the Move!" and includes music by Yello, The Rolling Stones, Edgar Winter, Miles Davis, Aerosmith, Clueless, James Brown, War, Bobby McFerrin, Foghat, and Ozzy Osbourne. This show presents to the audience a musical representation of the various forms of transportation used in the modern age. The combination of traditional marching and the current "pop" artists elicits a strong reaction from the crowd as they see this music accompanied by an amazing visual performance! This year's halftime show will also be a landmark in our history as the Rhythm Section will act as a wireless and MOBILE

unit on field for the first time ever! Watch out for that bus!

Some highlights of the 2007 season will include a performance at Enka High School's 'Land of the Sky' competition on September 29, and an overnight trip to Charlotte, November 2-3, where the band will perform in exhibition at Clover High School, and at "BandBeat" in Memorial Stadium, hosted by East Lincoln High School and Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps.

The annual "Tournament of Champions" is scheduled for October 13. This competition brings 25 elite high school bands together from the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee. This event brings over 3500 high school students and prospective music majors to Western Carolina University as well as a national panel of judges. Contact the band office at 828-227-2259 for more information, or visit the band's website at: <http://prideofthemountains.wcu.edu/>



Jazz Festival 2008

The Annual WCU Jazz Festival will take place Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12. The WCU Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Pavel Wlosok, will perform on Friday night and the world famous **One O'Clock Jazz Lab Band** (from the University of North Texas)

will perform Saturday. Both concerts start at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Other WCU Jazz Ensemble activities planned for the '07-'08 academic year include concerts on November 14 and

November 29, along with a three-day concert tour, March 27-29. For more information on these events, contact Pavel Wlosok at the School of Music.

MUSICAL THEATRE NEWS

All-District Band at WCU

Western will once again host the annual All-District Band on February 8 & 9, 2008. This event brings over 350 student musicians and their band directors to campus for an intensive two days of rehearsing, listening, and performing. The students are chosen through an audition process and assigned to one of four bands – two middle school, one for 9-10 grades and one for 11-12 grades. This year's clinicians include Bruce Dinkins from Texas, Amy Acklin from Florida, Stan Michalski from Charlotte and Clif Dodson from Asheville.

As part of the clinic, the students will get to hear a performance by the WCU Wind Ensemble conducted by Dr. John T. West. This concert will be on Friday evening, February 8 and will take place at the Fine and Performing Arts Center. The public is invited and there is no admission charge.

WCU Honor Band

The 28th Annual WCU Honor Band will take place on April 4 & 5, 2008. This event continues a long tradition of showcasing the talents of some of the region's best high school musicians.

Approximately 180 instrumentalists from high schools around North Carolina and other southeastern states will travel to Cullowhee for the two-day festival. Divided into two equal bands through an audition process, the students will have an opportunity to work with two fine clinicians – Ms. Sue Samuels and Dr. Scott Stewart. Ms. Samuels is the Director of Bands at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and Dr. Stewart is the Director of Wind Studies at Emory University.

During the festival, the attendees will hear concerts by the WCU Wind Ensemble and Symphony Bands, attend master classes conducted by WCU's artist faculty and present a final concert on Saturday evening, April 5.

All of the performances are open to the public and there is no admission charge. For more information go to the website: wcuhonorb主and.com.

WCU's Musical Theatre program continues its exciting growth. With a record number of incoming freshmen and a year that will see three productions, the 2007-08 season promises to be an extraordinary one.

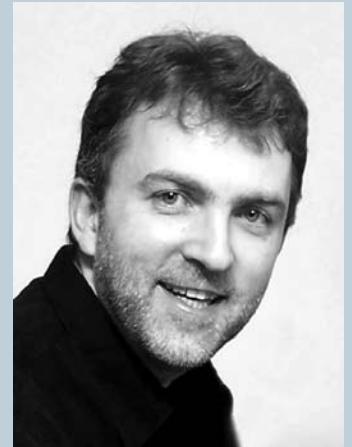
In August, the program hosted its first musical theatre camp. Under the direction of Terrence Mann, Charlotte d'Amboise, and Brad Martin, gifted young performers from across the Southeast were on the WCU campus for a week of intensive classes and rehearsals that featured four guests artists with a total of five Tony nominations between them! Due to its overwhelming success, next summer's camp will be extended to two full weeks.

The comedy *Lucky Stiff*, our first musical production, will be presented from November 8th to 11th at Hoey auditorium. Combining dark humor, mystery, and farce, this whimsical comedy will make you tap your toes and rewrite your Will.

As part of the activities surrounding the visit of the AIDS Quilt to the WCU campus, a staged version of the musical *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens* will be presented in The Grand Room at the University Centre on December 5th. A series of musical and theatrical vignettes, this production will move and inspire you.

Terrence Mann, the F. Wendell Phillips Endowed Chair in Musical Theatre, will direct Frank Loesser's popular *Guys and Dolls* in February. Local audiences are still raving about Western's sell-out performances of *The Music Man* last year. Get your tickets early for what promises to be a stellar production of this classic American musical! For tickets to any of these events contact the box office at (828) 227 2479.

Finally, the Musical Theatre Program is growing at an incredible rate and seeks scholarship donors to support our incredibly talented young performers. Interested patrons should contact **Bradley Martin**, the newly appointed Director of Musical Theatre, at (828) 227-3726 or bmartin@wcu.edu. We look forward to seeing you at all of this year's exciting productions.



Recent Graduates - Spring 06

Alana Harper	B.S. Ed. instrumental	Daniel Trivette	B.S. Ed. instrumental
Jennifer Henderson	B.S. Ed. instrumental	Eric Henson	B.S. Ed. instrumental
Michael Henderson	B.S. Ed. instrumental	Robert Jessup	B.S. Ed. instrumental
Chris Caldwell	B.S. Ed. instrumental	Michelle Hurlocker	B.S. Ed. instrumental
Rebecca Manning	B.S. Ed. instrumental	Jessica Tavenner	B.S. Ed. instrumental
Rebecca Vickers	B.S. Ed. instrumental	Summer Schulte-Pool	Master of Music
Pamela Harmon	B.S. Ed. instrumental		

NATIONAL CONVENTION ...Continued from page 1

On Saturday, November 17, Bruce Frazier will lead a hands-on session entitled "Digital Video Basics for Musicians: Exploring *Final Cut Pro*." It is a beginner's tutorial for creating multimedia materials in a variety of digital formats using Apple computer's *Final Cut Pro* media management software. Topics in his presentation include video and audio capture, basic video editing techniques, adding video transitions and titles, working with audio, and exporting files. The presentation was inspired by projects designed to promote

programs at Western.

In addition, Bruce Frazier and Dan Gonko, along with former graduate student **Rob Johnson** collaborated again this year to produce music for the O. Max Gardner Award for UNC-TV. The finished composition was performed during the annual awards luncheon in May, hosted by the UNC Board of Governors. It was subsequently broadcast as part of the program "North Carolina Now," which airs at 7:30 p.m. weeknights.

— CHORAL NEWS —

CATAMOUNT CHAMBER SINGERS

The Catamount Chamber Singers and Instrumental Ensemble culminated their spring activities with performances to schools in western North Carolina and north Atlanta. Venues included Towns County High School in Hiwassee, Robbinsville High School, and three schools in Marietta: Dickerson Middle School, Walton High School and Pope High School. It was a delight to connect with WCU alums **Jenny Neslan Stowers**, **Jim Leatherwood**, **Scott Brown**, and **Gary Gribble** who served as hosts for the group's tour.

Repertoire for the tour and campus concerts included swing favorites *Hit That Jive*, *Jack*, *'Taint What 'Cha Do*, *Jada*, and a medley of Duke Ellington standards including *Take the A Train*, *Mood Indigo*, *Satin Doll*, and *It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing*. Broadway musicals numbers, such as those from *Hairspry*, *Cabaret*, and *Seussical* were also featured. Vocal soloists were Adrienne Avery, Jamie Drye, Phillip Ferguson, Lance Newman, Rachel Phillips, Dan Rohrig, and Christy Waymouth. Stephen Foster and Matt Williams performed original music composed for the ensemble.

The group will be on hiatus fall semester but will be active Spring semester '08. Plans are for the singers to join the members of the Concert Choir on tour to central Europe May 15-24, 2008. More information on the ensemble can be seen on its website: <http://music.wcu.edu/catsingers>.

HIGH SCHOOL INVITATIONAL CHORAL CLINIC

The annual WCU High School Choral Clinic will be held on the WCU campus on Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19, 2008. Watch your mail for all the details and registration forms for this great choral weekend!

HOLIDAY CONCERT

The School of Music will present the annual Holiday Concert at the WCU Fine and Performing Arts Center, Sunday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m. This is a fast-paced concert featuring large student ensembles, chamber ensembles, and faculty soloists performing from eight locations in the hall. Sounds of the season will be presented before you, behind you, and on either side of you! This has become a favorite of our concert audiences and is a wonderful way to usher in the season. Proceeds from this concert are applied to our "Academic Excellence" scholarship fund, which supports talented music students in scholarships each year. Ticket prices are \$10 for adult/senior citizen. Student/child admission is \$5.

CONCERT CHOIR TO TOUR NORTH CAROLINA, AND THEN EUROPE!



The WCU Concert Choir, Early Music Ensemble, and Catamount Chamber Singers will embark on the Fall '07 concert tour October 7-9. The first stop, Sunday October 7 at 11:00 a.m., will be at the First United Methodist Church in Waynesville, N.C. Alumnus **Steven McClure** is organist there. At 7:00 p.m., the groups will perform in Lincoln County at Unity Presbyterian Church in Denver. Alumnus **Dustin Stamey** is active at that church.

CHOIRS TEAM UP TO PRESENT THE MESSIAH

The WCU University Chorus, WCU Concert Choir, Western Carolina Community Chorus (directed by **James Dooley**), and the Western Carolina Civic Orchestra (directed by **William Henigbaum**) will combine forces to present Handel's masterpiece "The Messiah" on Monday evening, November 19 at 7:30 p.m. in FPAC. **Robert Holquist** will conduct; soloists will be students and adults chosen by audition from the membership of the three choruses.

On Monday and Tuesday, October 8-9, the ensembles will perform for various Gaston County Schools (including Hunter Huss HS, Forest View HS and South Point HS), and for East Henderson County HS. Their WCU home concert is scheduled for October 18.

An exciting European concert tour is being planned for May 15-24, 2008. **Robert Holquist** and **Bruce Frazier** will lead the WCU Concert Choir, Early Music Ensemble, and Catamount Chamber Singers as they perform in various venues in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Exciting sightseeing and tourist destinations will be included on this concert tour including Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany, St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, and a cruise along the Rhine River. Patrick Thomas will serve as the group's accompanist. For more information about this exciting tour, contact Robert Holquist at the WCU School of Music.

ALUMNI NEWS

Sandra Grogan (Hendricks), BSEd '82, is currently band director at Wake County Public Schools and Chair of the Wake County Bandmasters Association.

Jennifer Lindquist, MM '07, has begun her DMA at University of Iowa.

Reuben Council, MA '01, has just accepted a full-time teaching position at Susquehanna University, PA.

STUDENT TEACHERS FALL '07

Grace Ghearing at Venable Elementary School

Elizabeth Shore at Cullowhee Valley School

Rachel Phillips at Tuscola High School

Michelle Hott at Macon Middle School

Autumn Rumfelt at Waynesville Middle School

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN, COLLEGE OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

I wanted to give you, the alumni, my congratulations and thank you for all your hard work and accomplishments. Having our own College of Fine and Performing Arts has been a long held dream that is now a reality. As of July 1, 2007, I have officially left my post as Head of the Department of Music. Dr. Will Peebles is the Interim Director of the School of Music. Yes, School of Music. As the new College was formed, the Departments of Music and Art became Schools – a mark of distinction well deserved. While "Schools" do not



automatically bring you more resources, they are marks of distinction, and are defined by multi-faceted programs of quality and excellence.

The mark of distinction of any program is first and foremost the quality of the graduates. You should know that the quality of your work helped make it possible to obtain our own College and School; not by overt action, but by being good citizens, musicians, and trained professionals. It is noticed. I have always held that the true measure of an educational system is the quality of the students when they graduate and the mark they leave on the various communities they serve.

I have so many fond memories from my beginning days in 1987 as Department Head through the present. I really feel at home when in the halls of Coulter. It is a safe place, a sincere place, and fun to be in. It is always action packed with various sounds coming from different locations.

I hope you are as proud of the

School of Music faculty and staff as I am. They are dedicated, true professionals, and enjoy the work. The underlying sentiment has always been to do what is best for the students. Your School of Music is considered one of the finest on campus.

As graduates you have something to be very proud of. Although not well known, you're College of Fine and Performing Arts is unique to the North Carolina University System. I am honored to lead the development of this college. When you see Chancellor John Bardo or Provost Kyle Carter please give them your thanks for providing this opportunity for music and the arts at Western to lead the state.

Remember Western, come see us, and make musical memories for everyone.

Robert Kehrberg
Former Department Head of Music
Founding Dean, College of Fine and Performing Arts

NCMEA CONVENTION TO FEATURE WCU MUSIC FACULTY

Bruce Frazier, Professor of Commercial and Electronic Music, and **Bob Houghton**, Middle Grades Education, will team up for a presentation at the North Carolina Music Educators Association conference in November. The session, entitled "Multimedia Development: DVD Creation Using Apple's iLife Software" will be presented on Sunday, November 11, 2007, from 3:30 to 3:55 p.m. in room BCC-C in the North Main Hall of the Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Frazier and Houghton will present techniques and tips for publishing media-rich information over the internet. The session, designed for in-service music teachers and music education students, will demonstrate how to create and combine audio, digital video, text, and graphics files for engaging presentations delivered on DVD. Hardware and software needed to develop the material will be included in the discussion.

Robert Holquist will direct a conducting workshop for NCMEA on Monday morning, November 12, 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

More than 30 high school seniors aspiring to pursue music study at the collegiate level will attend this workshop on conducting a choral group or band. They will have prepared a choral or instrumental selection, and demonstration ensembles will be present for their rehearsal. Holquist will serve as clinician, making remarks regarding their leadership and gesture communication. On Tuesday, November 13, 9:00-10:15 a.m., he will serve on a panel of college/university professors which will offer advice to those students who are about to audition for music programs at the university level.

Mario Gaetano will co-present a percussion clinic entitled "Percussion Ensemble in the Public School," Monday, 12:30 p.m. in Embassy Suites, Gaines Ballroom. This session is sponsored by the NC Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society.

Will Peebles, **Joy Shea**, and the Low Tech Ensemble, along with guest Dr. Han Kuo-huang, will present a gamelan concert and workshop on Sunday, November 11 at 3:00 in the Marriott Hearn Ballroom.

RECENT GRADUATES

December '06	
Robert C. Johnson	MM
Robert Blair	BS Ed
Dyona Davis	BA
Malpass, Alan	BM
Rudisill, James	BM
Simpson Wesley	BM
Wooten, Ryan	BA

Spring 2007	
Daniel Gonko	MM
Evan Doyle	MA Ed
Ross Jones	MM
Jon Henson	MA Ed
Jennifer Lindquist	MM
Harold Brokaw	MAT
Nick Belli	BM
Matthew Brigner	BM
Peter Crockett	BM
Ewing, LeeAnna	BS Ed
Flora, William J.	BM
Garner, Jaime	BS Ed
Hutchings, Mitch	BM
Inch, Rebecca	BA
Chris Kale	BS Ed
Klaes, Allen	BS Ed
Luedeman, Jessica	BS Ed
Miller, Victoria	BS Ed
Melvin, Jason	BM
Reneer, Sarah	BM
Simpson, Tommie	BS Ed
Beth Kauffman	BS Ed

FACULTY NEWS



Mary Kay Bauer attended the 2007 Summer Institute of Teaching and Learning at WCU. This institute was a week-long event which focused on new teaching techniques, establishing new colleagues across academic disciplines and rethinking teaching styles. Dr. Bauer also studied new areas of technology such as I-University, Pod casting and how to build teaching websites.



Mario Gaetano published seven new compositions/arrangements this summer, including: "Quintet for Percussion" (Belwin), "Medley of Hymns," for large mallet ensemble (Permus International), "Taco Suave" for pop percussion ensemble (C. Alan), "Londonderry Air" for five marimbas (C. Alan), and three sets of spirituals for solo marimba (Permus). Last April, he collaborated with the WCU Dance Department and provided original music to "The Shape of the Matter," choreographed by Amy Dowling. Gaetano writes exclusively for percussion instruments and has 40 published works and eight ASCAP awards to his credit. Last year his works were performed in 17 countries.

Gaetano was the '07 recipient of the Hinda Honigman Composer's Cup, awarded by the NC Federation of Music Clubs. His composition "Scenes From Earth," for piano and percussion ensemble, was the first prize winner in this year's NCFMC composition contest, voted best instrumental work published by a N.C. composer.

He continues to serve as principal percussionist with the Asheville Symphony, an associate editor of the NCMEA journal, and a contributing editor to *Percussive Notes*.



Michael Lanford presented a paper entitled "Ravel and 'The Raven': The Realization of an Inherited Aesthetic in *Bohemia*" this past July at the Fifth Biennial Conference on Twentieth Century Music at the University of York in the United Kingdom. He

also presented at the American Musicological Society Conference, Southeast Region (Scriabin research) and Allegheny Region ("Art Tatum's Pianistic Influence on Charlie Parker"). In March of '07, he presented research on Nadia Boulanger at the Sixth Annual Gender Research Conference at WCU.

This fall, he will be presenting research papers at the College Music Society, Salt Lake City, UT, on November 17 (Scriabin research) and at the Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, on December 29 (research on Edgar Allen Poe and French Impressionism).



Bill Martin performed many times this past summer with his musical family (daughter Ariana on piano and wife Cherry on hammered dulcimer). Performances by

the trio included those at Florida retirement centers in Orlando and Oviedo, the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands, and the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Moore, SC.

Dr. Martin will appear as featured soloist with the Blue Ridge Symphony's "A Night at the Opera," October 6. In November he will sing with the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, and on December 15 and 16, he will once again be featured with the Asheville Symphony during their annual "Holiday Pops" concert at Thomas Wolfe Auditorium.

On April 28 and 29, 2008, Bill will present vocal master classes and a solo recital in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, as part of the "Celebration" concert series.



The gamelan degung, under the direction of **Will Peebles**, performed at the North Carolina Arboretum in June and the Highlands Biological Station in July. These programs raised money for Rob Johnson's presentation on DVD authoring

and a composition for Balinese gamelan at the College Music Society's International Conference in Bangkok, Thailand in July. Also, a number of current students, faculty, and former students studied gamelan degung for a week in July, in San Jose, CA with Burhan Sukarma, one of the foremost Sundanese gamelan teachers in the world.

The WCU Low Tech Ensemble will be performing on Balinese gamelan angklung at the NCMEA conference on Sunday, November 11 at 2:30. They will also be performing at UNC-Greensboro on November 12, and Belmont Central Elementary and Lingerfelt Elementary November 13.

Dr. Peebles played for FinnFest in Ashtabula, OH and the Superior Festival Orchestra in Marquette, MI, during the summer '07. He also taught music theory and shape note singing for WCU's Dulcimer Week in July.

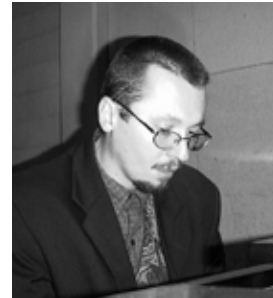


Eldred Spell is currently researching a book on flute making since 1950. The book will focus on the development of the "new scales" which revolutionized flute playing in the 1970's and 80's. He spent a week in Boston this summer

interviewing various flute makers. He has interviews planned for Elkhart and London.

From July 15-20, Dr. Spell presented a master class at Northwest Missouri State University, accompanied by pianist Lillian Pearson. He was also assisted by **Townes Osborn Miller** who has just begun her DMA at the University of Kentucky. He will be doing a recital/master class at Susquehanna University, PA, March 16-17 2008.

Dr. Spell is continuing his research on acoustical design/intonation of piccolos, and new techniques for optical microscopy, collaborating with researchers from the U.S. and Finland.



Pavel Wlosok received a WCU International Studies Research grant this past summer to study, lecture, and perform throughout the Czech Republic, Germany and

Poland. He presented sessions on jazz improvisation and over 25 concerts of his original compositions in Berlin, Krakow, Prague, Brno, and Napajedla. In addition, he studied with Dr. Karel Vraný, Director of the Conservatory of Jaroslav Jezek in Prague, and Professor Peter Weniger, Director of JAZZ-Institute Berlin. Wlosok hopes to eventually provide opportunities for faculty and student exchanges between WCU, Germany, and the Czech Republic.

NEW FACULTY PROFILES



Daniel Gonko will be teaching courses in recording arts and music technology at WCU. A native of Detroit, Michigan, he earned his Bachelor's degrees in Music Theory/Composition and Music Education at Central Michigan University, and his M.M. degree from WCU in Commercial and Electronic Music. Mr. Gonko maintains an

active schedule as both a freelance composer, with projects ranging from competitive drum line books to independent film scores, and as a performer with a variety of jazz groups in the western North Carolina area.



Jon Henson is the Assistant Director of Athletic Bands at Western Carolina University. This includes working with the "Pride of the Mountains" and two "Cathouse Bands." Some of Jon's primary duties are composing for and directing the WCU "Soul Train" as well as managing all electronics used within the "Pride of the Mountains." He is also a sought after percussion writer and instructor for bands across the South East. He earned

both his B.S. Ed. and M.A. Ed. degrees in music from Western Carolina University. Jon is a member of MENC, PAS, CBDNA, and is an Innovative Percussion endorsed clinician.



Saxophonist **Ian Jeffress**, recently appointed to the faculty of Western Carolina University, is completing a DMA in performance at the University of South Carolina, and holds degrees from Ithaca College and Furman University. He has previously served on the faculties of Allen University and the Palmetto Center for the Arts, and served as a graduate teaching assistant at both USC and Ithaca College. Ian has been a finalist in the MTNA Young

Artist competition and a semifinalist in the Fischhoff Chamber Music competition, and has performed at venues including World Saxophone Congress XIII, the 2003 and 2006 Navy Band Saxophone Symposiums, numerous meetings of the North American Saxophone Alliance, the Charleston Symphony, and as a soloist with the Cornell University Symphonic Band and the composers' forum Tabula Rasa. He has been consistently

involved in the commissioning of new music for the instrument, including works by James Matheson, Lewis Spratlan, Shih-hui Chen, and John MacDonald. His principal teachers have included Clifford Leaman, Steven Mauk, and Connie Frigo.



Don Miller joins our faculty this Fall as an Instructor of Music Appreciation and Freshman Seminar. Mr. Miller is a graduate of the Armed Forces School of Music, Little Creek, Virginia, and the Senior Enlisted Academy, Newport, Rhode Island. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Liberal Arts from Excelsior College, Albany, New York, and Master of Arts in Teaching Comprehensive Education in Music K-12 from Western Carolina University. He also

holds professional membership in the Music Educators National Conference.

He has 30 years experience managing, conducting, and performing with Navy bands in 48 states and 94 countries throughout the world. He performed for five U.S. Presidents and numerous other high ranking diplomatic and consular representatives, on radio and television, and performed with many notable personalities in the entertainment industry throughout his long and distinguished career in the U.S. Navy.



Timothy Rolls joins the WCU music faculty this year as Assistant Professor of Music Theory, and will be teaching undergraduate and graduate level music theory, composition, and aural skills. A native of Binghamton, New York, he holds an A.A. (Liberal Arts) from Broome Community College, B.A. (Music) from SUNY New Paltz, M.M. (Composition) from Binghamton University, and a D.M.A (Composition) from the University of

Houston. He has taught at the University of Houston, Binghamton University, Broome Community College, and Northern Arizona University. His theory teachers include Michael Kinney, John Rothgeb, John Snyder, and Tim Koozin. He studied composition with Gundaris Poné, David Brackett, and Michael Horvit. An active and prolific composer, Dr. Rolls has had works performed throughout the U.S., South America, Korea and Japan.

WCU Trumpet Ensemble to Attend Festival in Italy

Nine members of the WCU Trumpet Ensemble will join Dr. Ulrich at an International Trumpet Festival in Orvieto, Italy in June 2008. The students will perform as the WCU Trumpet Ensemble and also as part of a larger ensemble of trumpets consisting of players from across Europe. The WCU students will be in Italy for 10 days and will be attending trumpet clinics and performances and also be taking "survival" lessons

in Italian. Dr. Ulrich will be giving a clinic and performing in a professional ensemble made up of trumpet players and teachers from across Europe. The final concert of the festival will take place in Rome. The students joining Ulrich will be Rachel Rimmer, Adam Capps, Megan Neely, Chris Kristich, Josh Belvin, Brandon Chapman, Billy Dellinger, Becky Ford, and Kris Bence.

2008 WCU TRUMPET FESTIVAL



The 6th Annual WCU Trumpet Festival will take place January 18-20, 2008 and will feature world-renowned ALLEN VIZZUTTI as both classical and jazz performer and clinician. In addition, Judith Saxton, Gary Malvern, Mark Clodfelter, and Becky Ford will be conducting trumpet ensembles and giving clinics.

Last year's Festival had participants from 12 states and featured over 125 trumpeters on stage performing together. For more information, or to

help sponsor this event, please visit: www.ulrichmusic.com or contact Dr. P. Bradley Ulrich at 828-227-3274.

RESTRUCTURING AND NEW ASSIGNMENTS

As of 1 July 2007, we are now a School of Music in the newly created College of Fine and Performing Arts, which also includes the School of Art and Design and the Department of Stage and Screen. While these changes are part of a more general restructuring process at WCU, a good deal of credit goes to Dr. Robert Kehrberg, who has for years envisioned a college with an arts focus at WCU. Dr. Kehrberg, formerly Music Department Head, served for several years as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and is now the Dean of the new College. We are happy for the University's recognition of his leadership and look forward to working with him in the new college. At their annual fall retreat in August, the music faculty voted to recommend Dr. Will Peebles to be the Director of the new School of Music. Will has been serving as the Interim Department Head while Dr. Kehrberg was Interim Dean. Dr. John West has been appointed as Assistant Dean of the new College, while continuing to direct the Wind Ensemble and teach music education courses.

The WCU School of Music wishes to update alumni information.

Please complete this form to let us know where you are and what position you hold and return to:

**Mario Gaetano, editor,
WCU School of Music
Cullowhee, NC 28723**

School of Music Alumni Information Form

Name _____
Last First Middle Maiden

Degree _____ **Year** _____

Address _____

phone

☐ **This is a change of address from that on the newsletter.**

Position and employer _____

Spouse's Name _____

News of Interest _____
recent awards, performances, publications

